

Neeley, Nick

From: Scott Randall <scottrandall@optonline.net>
Sent: Monday, March 03, 2014 10:22 AM
To: Neeley, Nick
Subject: S.J. No. 23 (Comm) Resolution

Please accept this testimony as part of the Transportation Committee hearing scheduled for 3/5/2014. I will be unable to attend in person.

I am in favor of S.J. No 23, a "Resolution proposing an amendment to the State Constitution limiting the use of moneys contained in the special transportation fund"- **with one important modification/clarification.**

It would seem that similarly and to be consistent, the gasoline taxes collected from the sale of fuel for watercraft should also be segregated for use only for the protection of our waterways. (Gasoline sold to consumers for use in watercraft is taxed as part of the sale at the pump, but is eligible to be refunded to the consumer- a process that rarely occurs especially for recreational watercraft- it would be a simple matter for the State to estimate the percentage of gas tax collected that is associated with marine use).

The threats facing the States waterways- including Candlewood Lake- are every bit as severe as those facing our land-based transportation infrastructure. Without appropriate funding, the quality of our States watercourses will continue to decline with a negative impact not only to the recreational opportunities throughout the State but a devastating impact to the local economies that in many cases, depend upon tourism for a significant part of their revenue.

The idea of tying marine gas tax revenue to watercourse funding needs has been debated within the State for some time. This would seem an appropriate time to insure that tax dollars paid on the part of watercraft users are used to fund the protection of the States waterways.

Sincerely,

Scott Randall
Sherman Resident